IT HAD TO HAPPEN

This month and next will see the release of the first X-rated videogames, the work of a new company named "Mystique," formed by the Caballero Control Corporation (manufacturers of adult videocassettes) and American Multiple Industries which is handling the programming of the games.

The first three releases are Atari-compatible, though Intellivision versions will be produced in the near-future.

The initial games are "Custer's Revenge," "Beat 'em and Eat 'em," and "Bachelor Party."

The Custer game features the infamous soldier avoiding Indian projectiles and moving cacti, the latter of which are unpleasantly abrasive to certain of his private parts. His task is to save a woman tied to a pole, who rewards him in the expected way. There were no details available on the other two cartridges.

Upcoming cartridges will be videogame adaptations of the most popular erotic titles produced by Caballero. In time, the Intellivoice capacity will be utilized so that the software can converse with the user.

The X-rated cartridges are only the first step in Mystique's entry into the field. They felt that the novelty of an "X" rating would set them apart from other new companies, - and it has. Advance orders of the games have been in excess of one million, quite impressive in view of the cartridges' \$50 pricetag. But they hope to branch into family videogames as soon as possible, most likely by licensing existing characters from children's television or the comic pages.

One can only wonder how this will fuel the arguments of the self-styled do-gooders who claim that videogames are a corrupting influence. We'll keep you on top of it.